THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Data on the Disabled Persons collected in the recently conducted Census of 2001 is still under compilation, as reported by the Office of the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India. Therefore, the Census data of 2001 on the disabled is not available to the Planning Commission. However, due attention is being paid to the welfare and development of the disabled in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), which is now under formulation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by the former Chairman of the Rehabilitation Council of India met the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and presented a copy of the Report of the National Convention of 'Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Community Participative Rehabilitation' with a request for Planning Commission's continuous attention to the Disability Sector, which was agreed to.

Distribution of Resources from Central pool to States

1335. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have changed the stipulations for distribution of resources from the Central pool to the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No Sir. Allocation of Normal Central Assistance (NCA) for the Annual Plans of States is based on the Gadgil Formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 1991. Any change in the stipulations of distribution of resources from the Centre to the States under the Formula requires the approval of the NDC. Hence, the Full Planning Commission in its meeting held on 27th & 29th June, 2001 discussed, *inter-alia,* the issue of the revision of Gadgil Formula for allocation of NCA to States. However, in view of the divergence

of views among the State Governments and the sensitivity of this issue, it was decided that it would be necessary to discuss this further and evolve a consensus before alternatives are considered by the NDC.

Gap between rich and poor

1336. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between the rich and poor persons in rural and urban areas has increased in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering seriously to narrow the gap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) From the two latest estimates of consumer expenditure data obtained for the years 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round) and 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round), it is observed that the ratio of per capita consumption of the poor to non-poor increased from 45% in 1993-94 to 47% in 1999-2000 (on the basis of 30-day recall) in rural areas. In urban areas, however, it decreased from 37% to 36% during the same period. This is due to the fact that a high proportion of urban poor are first generation migrants with few assets.

(c) and (d) The gap between the poor and non-poor is attempted to be effected through acceleration of economic growth and direct income generation of the poor through employment, income generating programmes and assets-building.